REPORTS AND PROCEEDINGS.

Mineralogical Society.

June 13, 1911.—Professor W. J. Lewis, F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

G. S. Blake: On Zirkelite from Ceylon. The results of five analyses made on fragments grouped together according to their specific gravity, which ranged from 5·2 to 4·4, showed remarkable variation in the percentage composition, the densest containing about 20 per cent. thoria and little uranium, and the lightest 14 per cent. U_3O_8 and little thorium; the precise formula is uncertain. A few crystals, some simple and some twinned, were met with; they apparently belong to the hexagonal system ($cc = 53° 22'$), the observed forms being c (0001), m (10$\bar{1}$0), r (10$\bar{1}$1), s (20$\bar{2}$1), b (10$\bar{1}$2), e (2023), and r the plane of twinning; they were opaque in mass, but translucent and isotropic in splinters.—Rev. Mark Fletcher: Note on some Crystals of Artificial Gypsum. The crystals, which were formed in the condensing plant of a distillery at Burton-on-Trent, were twinned about 101, and the forms 100, 110, 230, 111 were observed.—L. J. Spencer: The larger Diamonds of South Africa. Historical notes relative to the 'Excelsior', 'Jubilee', and 'Imperial' diamonds were given, together with a tabular statement of the weights of the rough and cut stones in carats and grams, and the percentage yield of the cut brilliants from the rough.—F. H. Butler: Brecciation in Mineral Veins. In vein-breccias due to fracture in situ (crush-breccias) replacement of country rock is a characteristic feature. Where the coarse fragments in a brecciated fissure-vein indicate erosion, removal of fine rock-debris may be inferred. Fragments that are angular and uneroded and completely isolated by encrusting material often indicate by shape and position their former existence as a single mass. The quiet removal of such fragments into a vein-cavity after reunion, and also the banding, with concomitant contortion of adjoining soft country rock, by their cement-substance, may be ascribed to the hydrostatic pressure and the solvent and mineralizing properties of the waters which furnished that substance. The coarse constituents of breccia may have been crushed in situ, or forced from fissure-walls by earth-movements, or detached therefrom by aqueous pressure and solution.—Arthur Russell: Prehnite from the Lizard District. Two distinct types of crystals, tabular and prismatic, were recently found by him on hornblende-schist at Parc Bean Cove, Mullion, Cornwall, the former showing the forms 001, 302, 061, and the latter 100, 001, 110, 061, and the rare form 301.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DREIKANTER.

Sir,—I am much indebted to Dr. Bather for pointing out, in your June issue, that when I wrote 'a dreikanter' I really meant 'a Dreikante'. As a matter of fact I meant precisely what I wrote,

and still adhere to it, though I certainly should have written 'Zeuge' and 'Zeugen'. I wrote 'dreikanter' because it was the form used by your reviewer, and should certainly not have used 'Dreikante', as this form does not appear in the only German work [1] dealing with the subject that was available to me for reference. No doubt Dr. Bather has excellent grounds for the use of the form 'Dreikante', and so perhaps my authority was mistaken in his use of 'Dreikanter' in a German work presumably written for Germans.

His letter suggests the question of how far it is necessary to adhere to the original terminations for borrowed words when they fall into common use in English writings. It does not appear to be a great sin to drop them, while it would be intolerable to adhere to them in every case, and I am glad to find the form 'horsts' in the textbook reviewed.

After suggesting that we should be careful to avoid the use of foreign words through laziness or ignorance of our language and defining the qualities that a technical term should possess, Dr. Bather goes on to point out that wind-wearing is not implied by the word 'Dreikante', which, he says, means a tripyramidal or triquetral pebble, and that wind-worn stones of this shape are in a minority. 'Dreikante' implies three-edged and certainly might be rendered by 'triquetral'. Tripyramidal, however, is not such a happy suggestion. Dr. Evans, in a subsequent letter, speaks of the "tetrahedral or tripyramidal form", so we have two authorities each using the same term for something different. It may be suggested that, even if a tripyramid is a possible figure, it must have more than three edges, while it would be more correct to regard a tetrahedron as a tetrapyramid, since any of its four faces can be considered as the base of a pyramid formed of the other three. No doubt the idea Dr. Bather desired to convey by 'tripyramidal' was a closed form bounded by three curved faces, any one of which may be regarded as the base of a pyramid whose apex is the summit of the curved edge in which the two other faces meet. Such a figure is probably more correctly described as a trigonal bipyramid with curved faces.

The term 'Dreikanter', though it does not literally imply wind-action, probably suggests the most typical form of a wind-worn pebble, and has gained wide acceptance in this particular sense, whether the form is only in the process of achievement or whether it has been modified by the formation of other facets.

I have not yet seen dreikanters in the Sudan, nor had the opportunity of studying their formation elsewhere. The object of my former letter was to point out that the phrase suggested as an alternative by your reviewer did not mean the same thing, and, though Dr. Bather admits the truth of this, I regret that his letter gives the impression that he attaches more importance to the correctness of the terminations than to the sense of the word. Doubtless this is not the impression he desired to convey.

G. W. Grabham.

Madeira.
July 10, 1911.

[1] Walther, *Denudation in der Wüste.*